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**CONFIDENTIAL**

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 FM THE SITUATION ROOM TOHAK 176  
 TO RODMAN/LORD FOR DR. KISSINGER  
 ZEM  
 C O N F I D E N T I A L WH32725

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE INSTRUCTIONS  
 APPLY

TO: LORD/RODMAN FOR DR. KISSINGER  
 FROM: GENERAL SCOWCROFT  
 SUBJECT: INITIAL MEDIA REACTION TO COMMUNIQUE

TOHAK 176

1. FBIS NOTED THAT HANOI'S VIETNAM NEWS AGENCY CARRIED THE FULL ENGLISH TEXT WITHOUT COMMENT AT EXACTLY THE AGREED HOUR.

2. THE LATER EDITIONS OF THE EVENING STAR WERE TOPPED BY BOLD HEADLINES ON US-HANOI ACTION ON POSTWAR AID. THESE HEADLINES LED LENGTHY GEORGE SHERMAN STORY WHICH EMPHASIZED THE AGREEMENT TO SET UP THE JOINT ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR POSTWAR RECONSTRUCTION OF NORTH VIETNAM. THE LONG ARTICLE CARRIED EXTENSIVE QUOTATIONS FROM THE COMMUNIQUE AND ZIEGLER'S QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION. IT WAS A STRAIGHT REPORT EXCEPT FOR A BRIEF NOTE OF SPECULATION THAT YOUR STOP IN JAPAN WOULD BE PRIMARILY TO EXTRACT MAJOR JAPANESE AID FOR INDOCHINA.

3. WHILE THE EVENING NETWORK NEWS SHOWS FEATURED THE POW RETURN STORY, EACH NOTED PROMINENTLY THE NEWS OF THE COMMUNIQUE. NBC LED A FIVE-MINUTE REPORT WITH A FOCUS ON THE CREATION OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION AND NOTED AN AGREEMENT ON NEW PROCEDURES FOR LOCATING MIAS IN INDOCHINA. VALERIANI REPORT NOTED THAT ZIEGLER GAVE NO FIGURES ON POTENTIAL AID BUT VALERIANI REPEATED THE OLD \$7.5 BILLION FIGURE. HE CHARACTERIZED THE COMMUNIQUE AS MEANING THAT THE US WOULD HAVE A CLOSE, CONTINUING RELATIONSHIP WITH HANOI. THIS WAS FOLLOWED BY DAVID BRINKLEY WHO SAID THE ADMINISTRATION IS, IN EFFECT, PUTTING NORTH VIETNAM ON THE PAYROLL IN ORDER TO KEEP THE PEACE. HOWEVER, CONGRESS WAS TAKING THE HIGHER MORAL ROAD BY STRESSING THE CONTRADICTION OF GIVING MONEY TO OUR ENEMIES, ESPECIALLY WHEN THAT MONEY IS BEING TAKEN FROM URGENT DOMESTIC PROGRAMS. ABC LED WITH THE COMMUNIQUE NEWS IN A BRIEF, FACTUAL REPORT STRESSING THE ECONOMIC AID ASPECTS AND THE DIFFICULTY OF GETTING THE MONEY FROM CONGRESS. THE COMMUNIQUE WAS SEEN AS EVIDENCE OF NORTH VIETNAM'S DESIRE TO LIVE UP TO THE TERMS OF THE PEACE AGREEMENT. CBS LED WITH A REPORT ON THE POWS FOLLOWED BY A BRIEF, STRAIGHT-FORWARD CRONKITE REPORT ON THE COMMUNIQUE BUT NO EXTENSIVE COMMENT OR CRITIQUE.

4. INITIAL WIRE REPORTS WERE DEDICATED TO LENGTHY FACTUAL REPORTING AND EXTENSIVE QUOTATION OF THE COMMUNIQUE AND ZIEGLER'S BRIEFING. REUTERS HAD THE MOST LENGTHY AND DETAILED REPORTS LEADING WITH THE NEWS OF THE CREATION OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION CALLING IT A BIG STRIDE TOWARDS POSSIBLE RECONCILIATION. SECONDARY EMPHASIS WAS GIVEN TO THE EXPECTATION OF A LAOS EASTFIRE IN A MATTER OF DAYS AND STRESS ON THE BEGINNING OF A NEW BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN HANOI AND THE US.

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UPI ALSO LED WITH EXTENSIVE REPORTING ON THE CREATION OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION AND NOTED THAT THE LANGUAGE OF THE COMMUNIQUE DISPLAYED A NEW CORDIALITY BETWEEN THE TWO NATIONS. THIS WAS FOLLOWED BY A COUPLE OF PARAGRAPHS EMPHASIZING PARAGRAPH SIX OF THE COMMUNIQUE WHICH UPI CLAIMED WAS NORTH VIETNAM'S RECOGNITION OF SOUTH VIETNAMESE SOVEREIGNTY AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY. POINTS WHICH HAD BEEN A MAJOR STUMBLING BLOCK OF FOUR YEARS OF NEGOTIATIONS. AP ALSO LED WITH THE ECONOMIC ASPECTS OF THE COMMUNIQUE, NOTING THE JOINT ECONOMIC COMMISSION AS THE ONLY CONCRETE NEW ELEMENT IN THE COMMUNIQUE. THE REST OF AP WAS MERELY A STRAIGHT REPLAY OF QUOTES FROM THE COMMUNIQUE.

5. NO CONGRESSIONAL REACTION TO THE COMMUNIQUE AND THE NEWS OF THE JOINT ECONOMIC COMMISSION HAS YET BEEN NOTED.

WARM REGARDS,

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